

CC: (1) Rev. Charles Holland; Long Beach, Mississippi
(2) Mr. Harold Weisberg; Frederick, Maryland
(3) personal files

*Harold-
I'll write you
in a day or two, but
thought you'd like to see this right
away. Jim*

University of Southern Mississippi
Southern Station, P.O. Box 1773
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401
October 5, 1971

Mrs. Gay Rivet Butler
The Westwood Village Square
P.O. Box 24904
Los Angeles, California 90024

Dear Mrs. Butler:

My sincere thanks for your letter, and apologies for taking almost a year to answer. A Xerox copy of this and other material to which I shall make reference is herewith attached, for your convenience in reference.

(1.) I did not receive the check for \$3.00 you mention, as a refund for my subscription to SQUARE.

(2.) I have not received my INCA membership card for which I sent \$10 (included in the \$17.25), and I have the cancelled check endorsed by your office in N.O. Also I have definitely not heard word one from Mr. Warren in New Orleans since your letter (although he did help me prior to it with info re Oswald). I had asked him for further info re conferences such as the one in Philadelphia I'd be interested in attending (and doing volunteer work) but have received no reply to date.

I did receive the three issues of SQUARE magazine and I was so delighted to get them, and sorry it is no longer published. Also received the SQUAREoptics and appreciate more than I can tell you the excellent and helpful information regarding Lee Harvey Oswald. There are several questions I have as a result:

(3.) At the end of Mr. Butler's se cond article (in Vol. 2 #1 of SQUARE), he proposes a Citizens' Commission on Conflict to re-open the investigation of Oswald, the Warren Commission and its critics, and District Attorney Garrison. He says committees were already convening and underway at UCLA and Valley State (this was two years ago), and for further information there was a coupon to clip and send to you. I do not want to ruin the magazine by cutting it out, but please do send me everything you have on those Commission proceedings, and if there is charge, let me know.

(4.) In the New Orleans magazine you sent me, Mr. Butler states that on his way to meet Oswald, he called his brother Rhett and they took a tape recorder to the station. Now the "Oswald: Self-

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"Portrait In Red" album indicates that this was a tape INCA obtained from WDSU. What ever became of Rhett's tape? Also, did your husband or Rhett have any further conversation with Oswald before or after the debate, and if so, did Rhett manage to get any of this down on his tape recorder?

I call your attention please to page 255 of Oswald In New Orleans, by Harold Weisberg (Canyon Books edition, 1967). It makes reference to the Los Angeles Herald Examiner of February 23, 1967, in which Mr. Butler is reported to have held a press conference and released "a top secret tape recording in Lee Harvey Oswald's own words...two months before the assassination", which coincides with the date of the debate. Is this tape, which was forwarded to the District Attorney in New Orleans, the one Rhett made? Do you have a copy of this clipping, and if possible a copy of the tape? (I will, of course, gladly absorb any cost.)

Also, is Rhett still in New Orleans, and if so, could I contact him next time I'm down there? (Do you know his phone or address where I could write to him?)

(5.) Mr. Butler says Oswald asked him his full name and his organization and wrote it down. But you notice in his notebook published by the Warren Commission that he wrote it down wrong as "John" instead of Ed? Does either your husband or Rhett have "John" anywhere in their name or nickname?

(6.) After the debate, Mr. Butler appeared on the WVUE-TV 10 p.m. news. Was that a live broadcast, and if so, do you have a tape or transcript of it? His immediate statement about Oswald could be of great historic value.

(7.) On the two INCA record albums of Oswald, both Congressman Boggs and the late Senator Thomas J. Dodd say that Mr. Butler played a tape of Oswald (Rhett's or WDSU's?) for them the day after the assassination. Yet Mr. Butler says in N.O. Mag that on his way to Washington, on the airport bus, he heard that Ruby had killed Oswald, which was two days later. On "Self-Portrait" Rep. Boggs says "Just a few hours after President Kennedy's death, I sat in my office in the Capitol with Ed Butler and listened to this recording..." And Sen. Dodd says he listened to it with Mr. Butler "Just 24 hours after the assassination, at a time when Oswald was still alive..." (emphasis mine, in both instances). Or were there two trips that weekend?

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(8.) In the brochure on INCA sent to me by Mr. Warren in New Orleans, it says, "Butler was called to Washington with the tape (Rhett's or WDSU's?) to testify before the Warren Commission." Yet, as I'm sure you know, his testimony does not appear in the 26 volumes, and friends of mine in Washington have been unsuccessful in getting a copy from the National Archives. There also exists no record of him giving the Commission a tape. (The recording of the debate obtained by the F.B.I. and Secret Service came from WDSU and/or Dr. Bringuier, which the Commission has on file.) I know that the Commission adhered strictly to a policy of sending stenographic transcripts to everyone who appeared before them. Would you please send me a ~~copy~~ copy of this testimony before the Warren Commission? (Again, I will gladly pay cost, and for time and trouble.)

(9.) Also, the information states in several places that Mr. Butler appeared before the Senate Internal Security Committee with the Oswald tape, on November 24, 1963. The Government Printing Office (as difficult as it is to communicate with them!) insists it has no copies of this. And the Committee itself says it will not release it. Are you and your husband aware of this? And may I again impose on you to ask for a copy, if you have one, of the steno transcript?

(10.) Also, on the "Self-Portrait in Red" album Marshall Pierce says Mr. Butler appeared before the House Foreign Affairs Committee. And in "Victory" magazine it says he "conferred with top officials on the case." What top officials? Any such testimony as this would be of the utmost value to me.

(11.) After the debate, Mr. Butler says Kerry Thornley heard the program and remembered Oswald from his pre-Russia days in the Marine Corps. But did he indicate that he and Oswald had been in touch there in New Orleans?

(12.) The album jacket and narration by Mr. Butler of the record "Oswald Speaks" advertise a "documentary paperback" entitled, "Oswald Speaks". I have been unsuccessful in getting this from the P.O. Box mentioned or from your office in the NBC building in N.O. Can you please send me a copy?

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(13.) At the end of the "Oswald Speaks" album is an excerpt of a speech by President Kennedy to the Cuban freedom fighters at a meeting of the Inter-American Press Association convention in Miami on November 17, 1963, just five days before he was killed. A blurb of INCA's documentary film says Mr. Butler believes this speech may have triggered or at least added to, Oswald's inflamed resentment. Do you have a complete copy of the late President's speech, and maybe even the entire meeting? (The IAPA says it has no copies.)

(14.) Did you or your husband (or anyone in INCA) ever see Oswald again after the debate (or before), or have any further word from him such as a letter or phone call or anything like that?

(15.) Did you (and/or anyone else) go with your husband and Rhett to meet Oswald? If so, anything at all you can remember about him or that day may be of great value.

(16.) I have, indeed, read the exhaustive study you mentioned, The Assassination of John F. Kennedy: The Reasons Why, by Albert Newman. I found it highly interesting, although terribly tedious and slow at times. One of his salient points is that before Oswald left to kill President Kennedy that morning he left his wedding ring on the dresser, the only time he ever took it off. Is this true as far as you know? Did Oswald have his wedding ring on the day he debated your husband on radio?

Unfortunately, the government's investigation of Oswald, his leftist and rightist connections, and the people like Mr. Butler who knew him for what he was, was all so pitiful that these questions must be asked by private individuals. Please be reassured again that I have the utmost respect and confidence in the integrity of you, your husband, INCA, and the cause for which we are all fighting. If there is any way in which I can repay you, please let me know in your reply. Thank you very much, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Most sincerely yours,

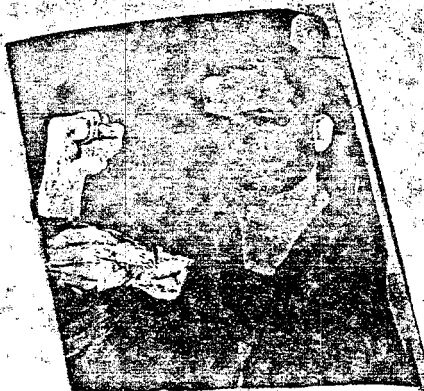
Jim Brown

OSWALD

WHILE "HITLER IN HAVANA" WAS BEING PRODUCED, A RADIO ANNOUNCER CALLED THE INCA OFFICE TO INFORM THAT A RADIO PROGRAM WAS BEING SCHEDULED WITH A CASTRO SYMPATHIZER. A DEBATE WAS PLANNED WITH ED BUTLER, INCA'S EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, AND THE LOCAL SECRETARY FOR THE 'FAIR PLAY FOR CUBA COMMITTEE' LEE HARVEY OSWALD. BUTLER'S DEBATE, 93 DAYS PRIOR TO THE ASSASSINATION, DREW REVEALING STATEMENTS FROM OSWALD, INCLUDING THE NOW HISTORIC WORDS, "YES, I AM A MARXIST!" WITHIN HOURS AFTER THE ASSASSINATION, COPIES OF THE TAPING WERE SENT TO RADIO STATIONS ACROSS THE COUNTRY BY INCA, AND RECORD ALBUMS WERE PRODUCED FOR AN EVEN WIDER DISTRIBUTION, SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND PRIVATE INTEREST. BUTLER WAS CALLED TO WASHINGTON WITH THE TAPE TO TESTIFY BEFORE

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THE WARREN COMMISSION. INCA WAS THE ONLY EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATION WHICH WAS ABLE TO EXPOSE LEE HARVEY OSWALD AS A DEDICATED MARXIST. THIS WAS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT AFTER THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT KENNEDY BECAUSE MANY PEOPLE WERE LEAD TO BELIEVE THAT HIS DEATH WAS A RESULT OF A RIGHT-WING PLOT, AND IN SOME CASES EVEN THE CIA WAS CHARGED WITH ENGINEERING THE PLOT. MANY DIFFERENT STORIES WERE TOLD, BUT NONE OF THEM COULD DISPUTE OSWALD'S OWN WORDS. INCA PRODUCED TWO RECORD ALBUMS FEATURING LEE HARVEY OSWALD AND MADE THEM AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC. IN THESE ALBUMS OSWALD ADMITS HIS FEELINGS FOR PRESIDENT KENNEDY, CASTRO, THE CIA, THE STATE DEPARTMENT, AND MUCH MORE. THE ALBUMS ARE ENTITLED: "OSWALD-A SELF PORTRAIT IN RED" AND "LEE HARVEY OSWALD SPEAKS."



THE WARREN COMMISSION